

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

19th of Karkadagam 1103.
Friday, the _____
3rd of August 1928.

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the Deputy President in the Chair. Messrs. S. S. Koder and K. T. Mathew were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Working of the Tanneries.

41. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

I. (1) what the interest of the Government is in the Cochin Tanneries, Ltd., Chalakkudi ;

(2) what exactly the circumstances are under which the concern has got to a non-working condition now ;

(3) whether any action is taken by the Government to improve its conditions or to see it is restored to normal working order ;

(4) if the answer to the above is in the negative, whether any step is being taken by the Government to recover the amount invested in this concern ;

II. will the Government be pleased to inform the House whether any expert advice was sought for about the whole concern ; and if so, will the Government be pleased to place a copy of the report on the Table ;

III. will the Government be pleased to state whether offers have come at any time for leasing or buying up the whole concern ; and if so, the details of such offers ;

IV. (a) will the Government kindly inform the House what is the total investment by the Government in the concern in the shape of shares and of loan ;

(b) whether the Government have in view any scheme for the proper working of the Cochin Tanneries, Ltd., hereafter ;

V. will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any expert in charge of the Tanneries now, and if so, what exactly is the nature of the work he is doing at present ?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—

I. (1) The interest of the Government is that of a shareholder as well as of a secured creditor.

(2) The main reason of its present condition is shortage of funds for the working of the factory by the Company owning it.

(3) The Director of Public Instruction, one of the Official Directors of the Company and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, has been asked to suggest means for its working by leasing it or otherwise, though the fact remains that it is primarily the Company's look-out to work the Factory.

(4) The question does not arise in view of answer to (3) above.

II. Yes, the Factory was got examined at the Company's cost and Government will not be justified in publishing the report independently.

III. None.

IV. (a). Shares Rs. 1,20,000.

Loans Rs. 1,21,755-0-9.

(b) Vide answer to I (3).

V. Mr. K. Raghava Kurup, General Manager of the Company, is in charge of the Tanneries and the Government understands that he has taken steps to resume work in the Factory.

42. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when did the Government receive the Expert report on the working of the Cochin Tanneries, Ltd. ;

(b) whether any orders have been passed on it ; if so, when ;

(c) will the Government be pleased to place the report and connected papers on the Table ;

(d) what steps the Government have taken to recover the loans paid to the Tanneries for the past 2 years ?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—(a) In May 1925.

(b) No specific orders have been passed. Vide also answer to Part I (3) of question No. 41.

(c) & (d). Vide answer to question No. 41.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, in (d) "What steps the Government have taken to recover the loans paid to the Tanneries for the past 2 years", I am asked to refer to the answer to question No. 41. The answer is not there as far as I can understand. Which portion of it, please ? To which part of the question